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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1944.

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# REPORT.

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## General Statistics.

Area.—26,881 acres.

Population (1931 Census)—8,812.

„ Present (estimated)—10,090.

Number of inhabited houses (1944)—2,620.

Rateable Value (1st April, 1944)—£60,743.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1944/5)—£263.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics.

### *Births.*

	M.	F.	Total.
Live Births—Legitimate	78	78	156
Illegitimate	5	4	9
	<hr/> 83	<hr/> 82	<hr/> 165
Still Births—Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	1	1	2
	<hr/> 3	<hr/> 2	<hr/> 5

Rural District.      England & Wales.

### Birth Rate

Per 1,000 Population      16.3      17.6

### Still birth Rate—

Per 1,000 Population      0.50      0.50

Per 1,000 Live Births      30.3      —

### *Deaths.*

	M.	F.	Total.
Deaths at all ages from all causes	65	65	130
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age			
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	—	2	2
	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 4	<hr/> 8

	Rural District.	England & Wales.
Death Rate.		
Per 1,000 Population (all causes)	12.8	11.6
Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births	48.5	46.0

*Analysis of deaths from all causes.*

	M.	F.	Total
Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..	1	—	1
Whooping cough ... ..	—	1	1
Diphtheria ... ..	—	1	1
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	1	2
Cancer of the uterus ... ..	—	2	2
Cancer of the stomach and duodenum	3	1	4
Cancer of the breast ... ..	—	3	3
Cancer of all other sites ... ..	8	3	11
Diabetes ... ..	—	1	1
Intracranial vascular lesions ... ..	6	12	18
Heart disease ... ..	20	24	44
Other diseases of the circulatory system	1	1	2
Bronchitis ... ..	5	2	7
Pneumonia ... ..	1	1	2
Other respiratory diseases ... ..	3	0	3
Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum	—	1	1
Nephritis ... ..	2	2	4
Premature birth ... ..	2	1	3
Congenital malformation ; Birth injuries ; Infantile diseases ... ..	1	1	2
Violent causes other than suicide and road traffic accidents ... ..	2	1	3
All other causes ... ..	9	6	15
	<hr/> 65	<hr/> 65	<hr/> 130

*Notes on Vital Statistics.*

The birth rate is slightly below that for the country generally, and the death rates are slightly higher. This does not show a good balance for the future population.

## Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Cerebo- Spinal Fever		Erysip- elas	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Civilian Cases.										
Ages under 1 year	-	-	5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
„ between 1 & 3 yrs.	2	1	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
„ „ 3 & 5 „	3	4	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
„ „ 5 & 10 „	5	9	2	3	2	1	-	-	-	-
„ „ 10 & 15 „	4	5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
„ „ 15 & 25 „	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Aged 25 yrs. & over „	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Civilian Cases	16	27	16	9	4	1	-	1	-	-
Non-civilian Cases										
Ages under 25 yrs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
„ 25 yrs. and over	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Total Non-civilian Cases	4	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1

Scarlet fever has continued to be of a mild type, mainly in sporadic distribution, although little groups occurred in some villages. Several cases were suitably nursed at home.

There were also 12 cases non-civilian of Recurrent Malaria (B.T.) no indigenous cases have been reported.

## Sewage Disposal Works.

HOLT : No material change ; satisfactory.

### WINSLEY :

This small works, planned originally to treat sewage from the whole parish, has continued to function for that portion of the parish which has been sewered.

## Water Supplies.

### ATWORTH :

The supplies to this parish are anything but satisfactory and constitute a very limited water supply provided by a private estate, through a small pipeline, which is, in itself, in a thoroughly decayed condition. At no time can this supply be regarded as totally adequate, and during the late summer and early autumn the quantity available was extremely meagre and had to be very closely rationed.

A copy of an analysis of the water from Hurleaze Spring taken during the year is given below.

It is hoped that steps will be taken to provide an adequate supply for this Parish at an early date, as further building development cannot be countenanced by the Council in this village until sufficient water is made available.

# SALISBURY GENERAL INFIRMARY.

## PATHOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

### Report on Bacteriological Examination of Water.

Water received on 24/5/44 at 2.30 from Hurleaze Spring, Atworth.

#### 1. BACTERIOLOGICAL COUNT.

Total Colonies growing on agar at 37 °C. in 48 hrs.  
Nil per 1 m.l. of water.

#### 2. B. COLI. COUNTS at 37 °C. in 48 hrs. and 44 °C. in 48 hours.

Acid and gas from Lactose									
Quantity of water tested									
	at 37 °C					at 44 °C			
Five tubes of 10 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

As a result of calculation made from above

(1) Number of Coli Aerogenes per 100 m.l. growing  
at 37 °C : Nil

(2) „ „ Faecal types of B. Coli per 100 m.l. growing  
at 44 °C : Nil

#### OPINION:

Bacteriological Examination shows no evidences whatsoever of harmful pollution.

Date 26/5/44.

E.M.D.  
Pathologist.

BROUGHTON GIFFORD.

The supply here is from a private estate. No complaints have been received.

## HILPERTON and STAVERTON.

These villages are supplied by the Trowbridge, Melksham and District Water Board. As they are near Trowbridge the supply is in the main satisfactory. Some houses have been built on higher ground than the main part of these villages and the pressure is not always sufficient for them.

## HOLT.

This large village is served by the Holt Water Supply Association, Limited—a private company formed by local residents. The supply has been satisfactory in quantity, and appended is a highly satisfactory report on the quality.

### SALISBURY GENERAL INFIRMARY.

#### PATHOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT GREVILLE LABORATORY.

REPORT on the Analysis of a sample of Water received on 10/4/45 at  
2 p.m.

From Holt Water Co. Sample from tap in private house.

Physical Character—Excellent.

#### CHEMICAL.

		Parts per 100,000.
Reaction	Alkaline	p.H. 7.1
Saline and Free Ammonia	...	0.001
Organic (or "Albuminoid") Ammonia	...	0.002
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 2 hours at 27°C.		0.032
Chlorides	...	2.5
Nitrogen as nitrates	...	0.25
Total hardness	...	40.0
(a) Temporary	...	32.0
(b) Permanent	...	8.0
Poisonous Metals	...	Nil
Nitrites	...	Nil
Microscopical examination of the Sediment		Nil

#### BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Total Colonies growing at 37°C in 48 hours: NIL Per 1 c.c. of Water.

Number of Coli-Aerogenes organisms growing at 37°C.  
NIL per 100 c.c. of Water

Number of Fæcal types of B. Coli growing at 44°C.  
NIL per 100 c.c. of Water

OPINION. Neither Chemical nor bacteriological examinations show any evidence whatever of pollution.

Date 12/4/45.

Pathologist.

## MONKTON FARLEIGH:

A piped supply was made available for this Parish a few years ago, through the kindness of the War Department Authorities, and no trouble whatever has been experienced since the connection has been made to the War Department's mains.

No analysis of this water has been taken during the year.

#### SHAW & WHITLEY and BEANACRE :

These villages are unfortunately at the furthest point of the Trowbridge, Melksham and District Water Board's area, and have frequently suffered from that fact. The Water Board is making every effort to increase the supply. Analyses are taken monthly by the Board, a full report of one analysis will be found in the Medical Officer's Annual Report for Trowbridge Urban District.

#### SOUTH WRAXALL :

The wells at Hobbs Bottom which were bored to supply this Parish have, of recent years proved most unsatisfactory so far as their yield is concerned and for many weeks in the late summer and early autumn the only water the inhabitants of this Parish received was that carted by the N.F.S. from the Westwood area, as the borings almost completely failed.

No analysis of water was taken from these boreholes.

#### WESTWOOD :

The Westwood supply, which also provides for the Parish of Wingfield, was well maintained throughout the year and the demands on the system were considerably above the pre-war average, due to the important Government works and large Hostel Site established in the village, plus the occupation of a large country residence, as well as a hutted camp by the Military.

Several samples of the water were taken and chlorination of the entire supply was continuous throughout the year, and a copy of one analysis of the water is given below.

#### SALISBURY GENERAL INFIRMARY.

#### PATHOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

#### Report of a Bacteriological Examination of Water.

Water received on 18/4/44 at 9.30 from Westwood Canteen,  
Bradford & Melksham R.D.C.

#### 1. BACTERIOLOGICAL COUNT.

Total colonies growing on agar at 37° C. in 48 hrs.  
1m.l. of water : Nil



2. B. COLI. COUNTS at 37° C. in 48 hrs. and 44° C in 48 hrs.

Quantity of water tested.	Acid and gas from Lactose.									
	at 37° C.					at 44° C.				
Five tubes of 10 ml. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Five tubes of 1 m.l. water	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

As result of calculation made from above

- (1) Number of Coli Aerogenes from 100 m.l. growing  
at 37° C: Nil
- (2) „ „ Faecal types of B Coli per 100 m.l. growing  
at 44° C: Nil

#### OPINION :

Bacteriological Examination show no evidence whatsoever of harmful pollution.

Date 20/4/44.

E.M.D.,  
Pathologist.

#### Housing.

The Council have been proceeding as far as possible with preparations of both permanent and temporary housing sites.

JEAN MURRAY, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

D. LEIGH SPENCE, M.A., M.B.

Medical Officers of Health.

September, 1945.